

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-22 and 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,068,548 ("Vote"). Claims 8-9 and 23-24 were rejected as obvious over Vote, without a secondary reference. Claim 4 was rejected as obvious over Vote in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,624,299 ("Shendon").

Claim 19 has been amended. As a result of this amendment, the invention of Lawrence M. Rosenberg is no longer being claimed. A request to delete Lawrence M. Rosenberg as an inventor is attached.

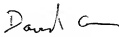
Enclosed is a declaration signed by inventors Steven M. Zuniga and Thomas H. Osterheld.

As shown by the enclosed declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, Applicant's claimed invention was conceived and actually reduced to practice prior to the filing date of Vote on December 17, 1997. Therefore, Vote does not constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The fee for the three month extension of time in the amount of \$1020 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/2/06



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